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L Press Guidance
December 1, 2005

Alleged CIA Secret Prisons in Europe: EU Letter

Question:

What is the status of our response to the EU letter from Jack Straw regarding allegations that the CIA has maintained secret prisons in Europe?

Answer:

- As you know, just yesterday we received a letter to the Secretary from Jack Straw on behalf of the European Union, in which he asks for information regarding press reports about the alleged detention or transportation of terrorist suspects in or through EU member states.
- We have made clear that we are aware of those press reports and the parliamentary and public concerns they have created in Europe.
- As the Secretary and I have said, the United States will respond to the EU's inquiry as soon as we are able. We have not yet responded.
- In the meantime, we will of course remain in regular communication with our European allies about a wide range of issues, including the war on terrorism.

If Pressed:

What do you anticipate the United States will say in response to the letter? When do you anticipate that the U.S. will have a reply?

- It would not be appropriate for me to speculate about that at this time.

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L/EUR: POlson - ok

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